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ence with the Senecas enabled the French to erect the fort at Niagara, and his sons, especially the younger, Chabert de Joncaire, kept French influence paramount in that region. The career of the latter will be found very instructive of the methods and difficulties of the frontier diplomats who upheld the power of France among the fickle Indian tribes. Whether he is wheedling a favor from some Indian tribe, or checkmating English intrigues, or peacefully conducting his establishment at Niagara, or, after the English conquest, standing trial at Paris for alleged complicity in the enormous frauds which disgraced the last days of the French régime, Chabert is always self-confident, always interesting. The temptation to quote his memoirs, so freely quoted by the author, would be irresistible did space permit.

If we are ever to understand the obscure struggle which for nearly a century went on along the frontier between the English and French colonies, we must have more studies like this. Mr. Severance has done for the Niagara frontier what Mr. Hanna in his *Wilderness Trail* did for the less-familiar Pennsylvania frontier. May there be other studies of the same sort. Certainly no student of the region and period can afford to remain unacquainted with what will probably long remain a definitive study of this "Old Frontier of France".

A. H. BUFFINTON.

Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region of the United States, 1678-1702: the Beginnings of Texas and Pensacola. By WILLIAM EDWARD DUNN, Instructor in Latin-American History in the University of Texas. [University of Texas Bulletins, no. 1705, January 20, 1917, Studies in History, no. 1.] (Austin, Texas: University of Texas. 1917. Pp. 238.)

To persons interested in the colonization of the lower Mississippi Valley Mr. Dunn's book will be most interesting reading. Until the appearance of the present volume the Spanish side of the story of settlement on the Gulf coast had not been told. Students of this period of the history of the United States have felt this omission and will welcome this admirable narrative, so well worked out of a mass of new documentary material found by the author in the archives of Spain.

In chapter I. the story is told of how "the unscrupulous ambitions of Louis XIV." on the Continent of Europe led the Spaniards to believe that the French king "merely awaited a favorable opportunity to extend his aggressions to the new world", and that he would seize upon the first chance "to wrest away the choicest portions of her colonial domain". Not much interest was aroused in the matter until a definite scheme of conquest threatened Spain's claims to the Gulf region. Chapter II. contains an account of the receipt of the news in Mexico and Spain of the establishment of La Salle's colony on Espíritu Santo Bay. Chapter III. deals with the diplomatic activity of the Spaniards at the court of the Catholic James II. of England, where an attempt was made to get the

English king to join Spain in an undertaking to frustrate the new designs of Louis XIV. in the Gulf region. Repeated orders were sent from the mother-country to the officials of New Spain during the years 1687-1690 commanding them to spare no effort "to find the site of the French settlement and to exterminate the invaders". Chapters IV. and V. show how well these orders were obeyed by the colonial officials. No less than five maritime and three land expeditions set out either from Mexico or from Florida in search of La Salle's settlement. "After three and a half years of almost ceaseless agitation and suspense the mystery of the French colony on Espiritu Bay had finally been solved." The fear of further aggression on the part of Louis XIV. caused the Spaniards to undertake the founding of missions among the Texas Indians and the occupation of Pensacola Bay. Chapter VI. reviews the work among the Texas Indians, while chapter VII. gives an account of the establishment of a Spanish fort on Pensacola Bay. Chapter VIII., the concluding one, tells of the second French invasion of the Gulf region and the founding of Iberville's colony on Biloxi Bay and its effect upon the Spaniards. The accession of Philip V., the grandson of Louis XIV., to the throne of Spain soon led to the adjustment of the unsettled question of Pensacola and the French occupation of Louisiana. Spanish acquiescence was hastened by the report that England had designs on Spain's colonies and had already sent out colonizers, and by the difficulty she had encountered in planting a post on Pensacola Bay.

The book has four maps of interest for the period under discussion, and two sketches, one showing the location of La Salle's camp on Matagorda Bay and the other illustrating the Pez-Sigüenza expedition of 1693. The author has succeeded in fixing definitely the exact date of the founding of Pensacola and has given much interesting biographical matter relating to such men as Peñalosa, Echagaray, Monclova, Pez, and others.

The bibliography and index are full and satisfactory, but the appearance of the book would have been improved if the table of illustrations occupied a separate page. It would have been of considerable aid to students if the table of contents had been somewhat more analytical.

N. M. MILLER SURREY.

Life and Letters of the Rev. John Philip Boehm, Founder of the Reformed Church in Pennsylvania, 1683-1749. Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM J. HINKE, Ph.D., D.D., Professor of Semitic Languages and Religions in Auburn Theological Seminary. (Philadelphia: Publication and Sunday-School Board of the Reformed Church in the United States. 1916. Pp. xxiv, 501. \$2.00.)